SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

7th Year - October 8, 1973

No 217

Address: HT 1217 B-SVN
c/o DAZIMINA HANOI
19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and all RSVN Embassies, Information Bureaux in foreign countries

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

An inadmissible provocation

ON September 27, 1973, the Saigon Minister for Foreign Affairs declared that "his government reserves for itself the right to take all appropriate measures" to recover the Le Minh post, occupied then evacuated by a Saigon garrison, more than 20 miles from Pleiku.

The next day the Saigon delegation to the Two-Party Joint Military Commission unilaterally adjourned the session by walking out after levelling slanderous charges at the Government of the DRVN and the RSVN PRG.

The Saigon spokesman had earlier warned that the safety of the members of the PRG military delegation would not be seen to outside their offices if they went on calling the Thieu regime the Saigon administration" and denying the latter the right to control all South Viet Nam!

The above facts recall others of equal gravity. On September 12, 1973, Thieu's Prime Minister, Tran Thien Khiem declared that "the Paris Agreement could be scrapped any time and that the third force only exists on paper." On September 14, 1973, Thieu himself asserted at Vung Tau (formerly Cape Saint Jacques) that "it is important to maintain Saigon military strength at the present level, i. e. 1,1000,000 men if the Communists are to be defeated." And his spokesman lashed out into threats against the civilian airports under construction in the liberated areas. The Thieu gang charges that the PRG were making extensive preparations for the resumption of the hostilities and went the length of describing Fidel Castro's visit to the free zone of South Viet Nam and the landing of Chinese aid goods at Dong Ha harbour as breaches of the Paris Agreement!

All that smear campaign of a systematic character is an inadmissible provocation against the whole Vietnamese people and a challenge to the conscience of progressive mankind.

The cease-fire provided for throughout South Viet Nam as from 24.00 hours GMT on January 27, 1973 by the Paris Agreement had not been complied with by the Saigon administration. A second cease-fire beginning on June 13, 1973 had to be imposed by the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué to be ignored by the fire-eating Thieu band of fascists.

Between January 28, 1973 and July 28, 1973, more than 25,000 land-grabbing operations by Saigon troops were recorded with 10,000 air reconnaissance or bombing sorties and 35,000 artillery strikes. In the Saigon-controlled areas, more than 80,000 police operations were mounted, thousands of civilians killed or wounded and over 25,000 arrests made of patriots and peace partisans. Since late July, Saigon military actions have been going on and have been even stepped up in some places. Remarkably enough, the Thieu rule has sprayed with chemical poisons and bombed with 15,000-pounders its own zone, during so-called "special pacification" raids.

The state of war has been dragged out and a new adventure has been in the making with a view to the non-implementation of the specific provisions of the Paris Agreement and the Joint Communiqué on the return of all military and civilian personnel of our side, ensurance of the people's democratic freedoms and achievement of national reconciliation and concord.

Behind Saigon's words and deeds is lurching the hand of US imperialism which has not brought itself to give up its neo-colonialist views and still persists in assisting and shoring up its Saigon and Phnom Penh clients.

If it were not for the hand-outs of his Washington bosses and his good suzerain Nixon, Thieu would never be able to keep a 1,100,000-strong army, a 120,000-strong police, 40,000 secret agents and 100,000 "pacification cadres." He would not be able either to get the huge amounts of ammunition spent in his incessant military operations, if it were not for the generosity of the US which brought 30,000 tons of armament to Da Nang and Cam Ranh in March 1973 alone.

US responsibility is left in no doubt. It is the US Embassy which directs Thieu's implementation of plans elaborated in Washington. It is the C.A.O with General John Murray at its head which assumes the effective command of the Saigon army through the medium of nearly 20,000 advisors and US military personnel and with the help of a gigantic network of intelligence "made in USA."

On September 25, 1973, William Sullivan, the new US Ambassador to Manila, bluntly said that the maintenance of US troops in Thailand was to forestall a so-called possible DRVN resumption of the fighting and that the time had not come to neutralize South-east Asia, the countries of this area having to tolerate US intervention, for an indefinite length of time.

THE South Vietnamese and the Vietnamese people as a whole are in their right. The Paris Agreement has recognized Viet Nam's sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese. Such rights are sacred and imprescriptible, which every country is dutybound to respect.

At present in South Viet Nam, there are two administrations, two armies, two zones of control and three different political forces.

We have the right to repair or build airports and roads in our zones, to welcome any guests there and to land there aid from brotherly and friendly countries. We have the right to counter with arms in hand any encroachment, in virtue of the fundamental and millenary right to legitimate self-defence of all peoples and individuals under unprovoked assault.

That is what Minister Nguyen Van Hieu underlined at the 27th plenary session of the La Celle Saint Cloud Consultative Conference: "The PRG has served many warnings with utmost self-restraint. It and its armed forces cannot but take in face of Saigon land-grabbing operations, vigorous steps to preserve the lives and property of its people, and to defend its territory, air space and territorial waters."

As regards the Le Minh (Saigon name for Chu Nghe) post incident in particular, the PRG Foreign Ministry spokesman made it clear on September 20, 1973 that Saigon had undertaken a looting and "mopping-up" raid there and that it had subsequently laid the blame on the PRG, after the usual US "thief crying stop thief" practice. Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRG strongly denounces the aggressive manoeuvres of the US and the Saigon administration and rejects their fantastic charges and frenzied threats.

While Nixon is still unable to extricate himself from the Watergate mess, the Saigon tin-horn dictator and his minions cannot impress anyone with their William II type of sabre-rattling. No one forgets what happened to the Prussian Emperor and to his successor Hitler. It is not advisable to brave the wrath of the peoples at the present world juncture where the balance of forces has been tilted in favour of the forces of socialism, peace and progress. The Saigon junta had better think twice before embarking into a new provocation and sabotage attempts.

A right path has been pointed to them: that of the strict observance of the Paris Agreement, national reconciliation and concord. Any other path will only lead them to failure and expiation of their accumulated offences.

The South Vietnamese are sure of their right as well as of their future, under the lucid leadership of the NFL and PRG. Whatever the US and the Saigon administrations' attitude and actions may be, they will keep up their effort to the other side to honour their pledges and first and foremost to observe the cease-fire, return all the civilian personnel still held by it and free all the political prisoners including members of the Third Force and ensure democratic liberties.

Tam Quang town of Binh Dinh province freed before January 27, 1973

THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS IN WONDERLAND

THE I.R.C.C. again got into the news. Voice of the Truth Radio of Mr Thieu announced in its September 27 broadcast, that delegates of the Committee had visited the Chi Hoa Reeducation Centre and subsequently published a report saying that the communist prisonners there were in good health and lovingly cared for by their guards.

The same rad o said that the report made it clear that the inmates had declared their satisfaction with the solicitude of the authority for their health conditions : three medical examinations a week and issue of medicines. Every three months they had an X-ray of their lungs for symptoms of T.B., if any. It was thanks to such attention that none of them was ill !

Has the I.R.C.C. report been wrested to some extent ? No one is quite sure about that because the "doctors" of the I.R.C.C. are known to be friends with the Saigon regime. They have made so many visits to Chi Hoa, which seems to them a real wonderland.

Ironically enough, the very "wicked" Viet Cong that Thieu has sworn to massacre to the last man, are well looked after there. Little Alice must envy them their tri-weekly medical check-up and their quarterly X-ray, whose results presuppose good food, abundant drinks, cigarettes and sweets. Not a single sick man and every one sings in chorus : "Long live our screws and many thanks to them for our good life here, free of charge at that !" It is Paradise Regained, isn't it ?

But unfortunately Chi Hoa is no Hilton, nor a sanatorium not even for the civilian personnel whom the Saigon rule is reluctant to return to the PRG, in defiance to the ad hoc provisions of the Paris Agreement and the Joint Communiqué. J.P. Debris and André Menras, who had been detained there two years and a half, have given a lurid picture of it in their book now famous *Survivors of Saigon prisons*. For food, there was red rice mixed with pebbles, with a dressing of bits of rotten dry fish. For loving care, cudgel blows and insults galore and inhuman torture in the "cinema hall." Nearly all political prisoners suffer from asthma or T.B., partial paralysis and tabefaction.

On those two European witnesses and victims, I.R.C.C. delegates had reported to the French Red Cross that they were well fed and healthy, while they had just concluded a hunger strike lasting 27 days and that their first meal after the action consisted of a stick of bread which had been waiting for them for nearly a month and had been gnawed at by rats.

About the Vietnamese inmates at Chi Hoa, one can read a story carried on September 27, 1973 by *Dan Luan* (People's Opinion) : *Reminiscences on Chi Hoa Prison*, by Nguyen Thua Nghiep, President of the Petrol and Chemical Workers' Union, who recalled that the food (red rice and salt) was so scanty that the whole jail population noisily complained of hunger, sometimes till the small hours of the morning.

Mme Ngo Ba Thanh was released from Chi Hoa on September 21, 1973 in a very poor health condition and 45 pounds lighter. As a matter of fact, she had gone on a long strike during which she refused all solid foods and took in just enough liquid to survive.

Lastly, Father Tullio Vinay, an Italian missionary, back from Thieu-controlled areas declared on September 25, 1973, in a press conference in Geneva that the 200,000 South Vietnamese political prisoners had been subjected to a "horrible" treatment and that the Catholic Church should side either with the executioners or with their victims.

Had Messrs delegates of the I.R.C.C. forgotten their glasses or were they wearing distorting glasses ? One is inclined to think they had seen and heard things at Chi Hoa but they had just reported the opposite. Well, one had to show one's appreciation to one's host and his protectors' hospitality and generosity, hadn't one ?

As the cheque was pretty substantial, it is a matter of course that Chi Hoa looks like a wonderland where it is salutary to come back from time to time, to the impartial observers of the notorious committee and the four Swiss doctors who had made such an inaccurate diagnostic of J.P. Debris's and André Menras's state of health.

(Concluded)

"Before and since the cease-fire, the GVN (government of Viet Nam) has been converting detainees to common criminal status by the expedient of convicting them of identity card violations or draft dodging."

The embassy also acknowledges that Thieu has jailed "non-communist dissidents, such as Madame Ngo Ba Thanh and her group and various student leaders."

George Herman : "Would you allow an American Red Cross examination, or an International Red Cross examination or a French team, including perhaps, Monsieur Debris and Monsieur Menras to go back and examine freely those prisons and make a report to the world on them ?"

President Thieu : "Yes, yes..."

George Herman : "You would, then, you say, welcome a team to inspect from, say, France, or from the world Red Cross, or some reputable organization ?"

President Thieu : "Anyone, even yourself, if you would like to go through Viet Nam right away."

(Face the nation CBS, April 8, 1973)

DECEIVING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

DON LUCE :

Yet one week later, Bishop Gumbleton was refused permission to visit three specific prisoners or the prisons where they were kept, nor has the US Senate fared better. Senator Edward Kennedy explained what happened when the Senate Subcommittee on Refugees requested permission for its staff members to visit specific prisons in March 1973 :

"A March 19 letter from Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker to a staff member of the Subcommittee stated that — and for the usual bureaucratic reasons — the Subcommittee's study mission to South Viet Nam was officially denied permission to inspect civilian prison facilities."

"US assistance to the South Vietnamese police force in the past has been designed to help the government of the Republic of Viet Nam develop a more humane correctional system. Under the guidance of professional US penologists, significant improvements in the fields of sanitation, health and housing have been realized. Progress also has been achieved in alleviating crowded prison conditions and in separation of inmates by categories. Through this assistance, prisoners are better fed, housed and medically treated."

(Gregory Gay, Chief Public Inquiries Division, Department of State, June 13, 1973 (letter to Robert Langfelder of Isla Vista, California)

DON LUCE :

US officials have known about and condoned nhumane conditions in Viet Nam for years. The story of the tiger cages is typical. On October 1, 1963, Frank Walton, Chief of the US public safety division in Saigon, issued a signed report which described the tiger cages :

"In Con Son 2, some of the hardcore communists keep preaching the "party" line, so these "reds" are sent to the tiger cages in Con Son 1 where they are isolated from all others for months at a time. This confinement may also include rice without salt and water — the United States prisons' equivalent of bread and water. It may include immobilization — the prisoner is bolted to the floor, handcuffed to a bar or rod, or leg-irons with the chain through an eyebolt, or around a bar or rod."

Yet in July, 1970, when the existence of the tiger cages was disclosed, Mr Walton denied any knowledge of them to two US Congressmen, Augustus Hawkins and William Anderson.

In 1971, an employee of the US construction consortium of Raympond, Morrison, Knudson, Brown, Root and Jones made available the letter of an agreement between their firm and the US Department of Navy to build new isolation cells to replace the tiger cages (the new cells are two square feet smaller than the former tiger cages). On February 22, 1971, Robert McCloskey, State Department briefing officer, said that the 400,000 dollars for the construction of the new cells was government of Viet Nam funds. In March, 1973, however, Mr Ray Meyer, second secretary of the US embassy in Saigon made available to the US Senate Subcommittee on Refugees, a report entitled "enquiry on USAID : CORDS support of GVN civilian prison system" which shows that the money for the construction of the new "isolation cells" was indeed part of US economic assistance to Viet Nam in a category called "assistance-in-kind."

The greatest tragedy of all this deception is what has happened to the Vietnamese in the jails. Hundreds are permanently paralyzed. Some, like Nguyen Ngoc Phuong, have died as a result of the torture in the prisons. Thousands remain in jail — in a system still maintained by US money.

Many brave South Vietnamese have publicized the plight of political prisoners in their country. Most of them are now in jail. Despite the form letters sent out by the State Department and Saigon embassy, there is evidence that concern for individual prisoners does make a difference.

The purpose of the torture and repression in South Viet Nam is to quiet Vietnamese protesting their lack of freedom there. The purpose of the deception by US and Saigon officials in America is to quiet Americans objecting to the use of their tax money to perpetuate the mistreatment of the political prisoners.

On their way to prisons and tortures

Rice fever in Saigon and US neo-colonialist genocide

THOUGH constantly purged and threatened with closure, prison sentences and astronomical fines, the Saigon press continues to report on a true rice fever so disastrous to the popular masses: manual workers, small traders, petty officials, etc.

Notwithstanding the lifting of TVA on the sale of rice and services relating to it, the prices of necessities keep soaring, thus, in early September a quintal of good quality rice sold on the market at 19,000 piastres, that of ordinary rice over 15,000 piastres and that of poor quality rice (hardly eatable) over 13,000 piastres.

The *Dai Dan Toc* estimates as follows the house keeping budget of a street-sweeper (an employee of the establishment, mind you) and that of a war invalid, first class, a recipient of heartfelt gratitude in Mr Thieu's speeches.

By eating only plain rice with salted fish and "rau muong" (waterlily) and going without breakfast (except for the children who have to pay school fees if they are lucky enough to afford schooling), each of the above mentioned families is still short of over 10,000 piastres per month to make both ends meet.

And what about the jobless workers and the bulk of the people who receive neither wages nor allowances from the regime?

Hunger is threatening the three million Saigonese and only spares the same privileged people: American officials and advisers, comprador bourgeois, upstart prostitutes and general officers of the Saigon army. It has already hit most mercilessly the million of "refugees" who have just seen their meagre sudsidies pitilessly cut off by FAO.

Famine in a land known for its fertility and rice export till the landing of the US expeditionary forces has now become fact.

It is a heinous crime of the US neo-colonialist aggressors who not only wiped out hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese civilians in hundreds of My Lais, but also snatched five or six million South Vietnamese peasants from their ricefields to turn them into regular unemployed city people, "refugees" against their will penned up in concentration camps fenced in by barbed wire entanglements, harlots and mercenaries armed and trained to murder their own fellow-countrymen.

The US Air Force saturated South Viet Nam's ricefields and gardens with toxic chemicals just as American transports poured into her towns huge quantities of US merchandise luxury goods and agricultural surplus; both are lethal on a large scale and for a long time. Thus hundreds of thousands of hectares of land were ruined and made unfit for food cropping; cottage industries and handicrafts have been strangled while idleness and new needs have been created among many sections of the population chiefly among the militarized youths who only learn to kill their own people and despise productive labour.

That American crime, called genocide has been severely condemned all over the world and in even the United States.

Nevertheless, though it has signed the Paris Agreement, the Nixon administration has not given up its neo-colonialist designs. On the contrary, the pull-out of the last units of GIs only camouflaged the intensification of Vietnamization under all its forms — military, political and economic.

In fact, cease-fire has been but less-fire with the hostilities going on in the form of encroachments on the PRG-controlled areas and chiefly of tens of thousands of "mopping up" operations in the territory under the Thieu administration. That job has required one million mercenaries, soldiers and policemen who were "officered" by more than ten thousand American "civilians" who have just doffed their uniforms for plain clothes to be abreast of the Nixon post-war period.

But it is necessary to feed one million men, and their families and one million refugees as well as three hundred thousand functionaries of both sexes uniformly compelled by Thieu's new decree to do military training. Specially it is necessary to prop up their sagging morale by means of a dilemma reminiscent of tyrants of the ancient times: serve the dollar or die of hunger.

Together with many other existing taxes, TVA directly serves economic Vietnamization. But it is also aimed at impoverishing further the masses in order to break their revolutionary spirit and make them more pliant to the neo-colonialist regime.

The current rice policy is still more vicious and merciless. Every man or every family is hit in their raw and vital part: the stomach. Warning to the militaryman or functionary who refuses to obey the regime: a slow but inescapable death for him and his family. And to prevent the countryside from helping the towns, the Thieu administration arrogates to itself, by virtue of a war time legislation, the monopoly of the rice trade and the right to requisition "rice surpluses" of the peasants.

The machiavelism of the US and the Thieu clique is also apparent in their food import and export policy. Whereas the Saigon regime hurriedly sends by river boats and aircraft tens of thousands of tons of rice to Phnom Penh, South Korean rice comes trickling in. Thus, of the 70,000 tons of South Korean rice bought by Washington on Saigon's account, the freighter "Lucky One" just delivered only 8,500 tons at Da Nang. The second cargo boat will arrive in November and others in December.

Meanwhile, the Saigon reserves of 106,000 tons would be eaten up in about two months. Mr Thieu counts on the paddy requisitioned in the Mekong delta. Being an ex-officer of the French colonial army, he cannot be unaware that the rice requisitions made in 1945 by the French colonial administration for the Japanese army resulted in a horrible famine in North Viet Nam which carried off two million people.

Fortunately, things have changed. Our fellow-countrymen in the South and throughout the country know what US neo-colonialism and its lackeys are capable of, and they will never relax their political vigilance. Our weapons are nationwide militant solidarity, the world's peoples' support and the positive right secured by the Paris Agreement, the Act of the Paris International Conference and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué. As a temporary administrator of a zone in South Viet Nam pending the formation of the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord and the free and democratic general elections for the creation of new political institutions in South Viet Nam, the Saigon authorities are dutybound to see to the welfare of the inhabitants in their zone under the terms of Article 11 of the Paris Accord; they must also ensure democratic freedoms, particularly freedom of movement, freedom of residence and freedom to work so that the unemployed and refugees in towns may return to their villages to farm their fallow lands.

On its part, the United States is under obligation to give up its military involvement and its interference in South Viet Nam domestic affairs and also, as provided in Article 21 of the Paris Agreement, to contribute to healing the war wounds still gaping throughout war-torn South Viet Nam.

All failings on the part of the Americans and the Nguyen Van Thieu clique would be tantamount to a new attempt at genocide and relapse into old war crimes.

The people of the South and the whole of Viet Nam are entitled to require from the US and Thieu due respect and strict execution of the documents signed particularly the following: observance of the cease-fire, release of political prisoners, ensurance of democratic freedoms and abolition of the criminal exorbitant tax and hunger black-mail policy.

The 1945 famine did not interfere with, and sped up instead the triumph of the August Revolution: this lesson of history is still vivid in the minds of the Pentagon strategists and their counterparts at the Doc Lap palace. The Vietnamese people did not yield to the deluge of hardware released by the half-a-million strong US expeditionary forces and 700,000 mercenaries. They will not let themselves browbeaten by the machiavelian manoeuvres of a battered neo-colonialist policy doomed to total failure. Whatever may happen, they are sure to win final victory which will also be that of humanity over barbarity and of international law over neo-colonialist genocide.

XUAN KHANH

US aid for the reconstruction of South Viet Nam
cartoon by **MUOI QUYEN**

Chairman NGUYEN HUU THO'S STATE VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

At the invitation of the President of the Yugoslav Federative Republic, Dr Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman of the Presidium of the National Liberation Front CC and of the Advisory Council to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Viet Nam visited Yugoslavia from September 17 to 21, 1973 at the head of a PRG delegation.

Tokens of deep sympathy for the genuine representatives of the South Vietnamese people were shown by the Yugoslav Government and people during the tour. Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and his party were welcomed with all the rituals reserved for Heads of State, with red carpets rolling from the plane ramp to the VIP room, and 21-gun salute thundering amidst the tunes of "Liberate South Viet Nam!" and the Yugoslav national anthem. Rain or shine, the roads through which the NFL leader and the PRG delegation passed, and the places they visited, were thronged with cheering crowds. The South Vietnamese guest was honoured with a "Yugoslav Star" medal, and Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh a "Yugoslav National Flag" medal by President J.B. Tito who did Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho a special honour by driving him to Brimi harbour.

On September 20, the PRG delegation headed by Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho had cordial talk with a delegation of the Yugoslav Government headed by Vice-President Mitja Ribicic at the seat of the Federal-Executive Committee. A Communiqué was made public at the end of the talks, which said in part: "Both sides were particularly gratified by the strengthening of friendly relations and co-operation between the people and Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and those of Yugoslavia. They expressed their firm resolve to further develop the many-sided co-operation between their two countries.

Both parties acclaimed the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam as a common victory of all progressive peace- and freedom-loving countries and forces throughout the world. They strongly condemned the US-supported Saigon regime's continuous and systematic violations of the most important provisions of the Agreement. They urged an immediate end to breaches of the Paris Agreement which should be scrupulously implemented.

On international problems, both sides insisted that the United States stop supporting the Lon Nol regime and intervening in Cambodia's internal affairs, which is a prerequisite for the restoration of peace in Cambodia and in the whole of Indochina. Both parties fully supported the position of the National United Front of Cambodia as made clear in the renowned 5-point Proclamation of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and in the NUFC Political Programme.

Both sides hailed the signing of the Agreement on the Restoration of Peace and Achievement of National Concord in Laos and of the recent Protocol to it. They expressed the hope that the Vientiane Agreement and its Protocol will be strictly carried out so as to bring about national concord in Laos at the earliest possible date.

Both sides reaffirmed their total support to the Arab peoples' struggle for the recovery of territories occupied by Israel. They strongly criticized Israel and all those who supported her aggressive policy toward the Arab countries.

Both parties expressed their deep concern over the events in Chile that led to the overthrow of the Government of President Allende and to the death of this outstanding anti-imperialist fighter.

The Communiqué also expressed satisfaction at the success of the Summit Conference of Non-Aligned countries which had recently ended in Algiers.

The rising song

(To mark a performance of a song and dance ensemble formed in US-Thieu jails, released and returned to Loc Ninh liberated area on February 13, 1973)

FROM the enemy jail a returnee,
I am singing now under a free sky.
The Loc Ninh forest is listening in deep silence
To the song which goes straight into man's heart.

Tears well up in the audience's eyes,
Tears of pride which fall
Not because it is full of the conviction of the undaunted,
Nor because it is full of the melodies of life.

As the war years dragged out, it lengthened,
And our military feats increased.
It is resounding on a fireless battlefield,
The song of the brave.

The Binh Dinh accent carries the tang of the sea breeze,
That of U Minh the fragrance of the cajuput,
That of Ben Tre vividly recalls
Straight-stemmed coconut orchards in the heart of the land.

The song now rises as high as the flames of hatred,
Now whispers softly, kind and tender,
Now glows like the sun and glitters like the lode-star
Now thunders down the prisons.

I returned here with a guitar
As tiny as I am, as vibrant
As my song "My route goes the length of the country"
It deepens one's love for the Long Range
It quickens millions of steps.

The prison's wall could not
Cut us off from the land,
Nor fill my sleep with nightmares
And I dreamed of more and more greenness in my native village.

My song will fly far and wide
Through hosts of trials and ordeals
And will remain young through the years
And purple red everywhere on our land of glory.

In the forest, patches of sunlight quiver.
The fighters listen, eyes red with crying,
No one cares about another day's decline,
And sees only a perennial dawn ahead

And when we intone the concluding "Solidarity" tune,
The whole jungle seems to join in the chorus.
Suddenly Uncle appears in his majesty
And a sprig of red frangipane blooms in the midst of the vernal forest.

CHIM TRANG
1973

The source of the strength of revolutionary heroism

THE RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government has decided, on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the Nam Bo Resistance recently, to confer the "Hero" title on 46 units and 20 officers and men of the People's Liberation Forces.

This is a great honour for the oaken-hearted units and the meritorious individuals who have best exemplified the offensive posture and determination to fight and to win of the army and people of South Viet Nam in a stage of grim and fruitful struggle.

In March 1972 the army and people of South Viet Nam launched a sweeping strategic offensive, destroying whatever had been achieved by US imperialism through its savage "Vietnamization programme," and foiling the vicious Nixon doctriue.

Braving all enemy bombs and shells the army and people of South Viet Nam fought relentlessly. Great feats-of-arms were recorded everywhere, in mountains, towns and country, by all kinds of armed forces — the regular army, the regional army, guerillas, the militia, the engineering corps, the artillery, the transport corps, the medical service, or the signal corps. It has been indelibly recorded in the history of Viet Nam that no amount of weapons and war means, however modern, of imperialism can get the better of the revolutionary heroism of the South Vietnamese people.

The 1972 strategic offensive of the Vietnamese people spelled out a tremendous advance of the revolution in South Viet Nam. In perfecf coordination, the infantry, the artillery, the armour, the A-A forces fought day and night, dealing thunder blows at heavily defended entrenched camps and military complexes of the enemy. The liberation forces wiped out entire divisions and whole columns of infantry, artillery and armour of the enemy, and liberated vast areas. Guerillas and the militia besieged innumerable enemy posts, while the population rose up irresistibly against the US Thieu rule and for the consolidation of the liberated zone and of the people's power.

The achievements of the Southern people combined with the dramatic victory of their Northern fellow countrymen over the strategic air offensive of US imperialism created a great epic poem. They brought glory to the resistance of the whole country, and opened up a new vista of the struggles against US aggression and for national salvation of all the peoples of Indochina.

The 1972 strategic offensive of the people of South Viet Nam splendidly illustrated the revolutionary heroism of Viet Nam, which found expression in the people's matchless courage, great resourcefulness, inexhaustible strength in combat, skillful use of modern weaponry, great ability in the organization and co-ordination of various armed services, vigour when on the offensive, and staunchness when on the defensive.

There were the Hoang Dieu Regiment —the spearhead in the attack on Dong Ha (Quang Tri province), one of the big military bases of the enemy; the Trung Dung Regiment, a main force unit in Central Viet Nam which operated behind enemy line and liberated the district towns of Binh Duong and De Duc there; the Hoa Lu Regiment, a main force unit in Western Nam Bo that planted an irremovable enclave on Highway 13 for many months; the 3rd Main Force Battalion in Quang Tri that defended the ancient citadel for 82 days while bombs and shells rained on it incessantly; the 2nd Regional Company in Khanh Hoa province which attacked an enemy position again and again, inflicting heavy enemy losses each time; and the platoon that held the Quang Tri bridge against superior enemy forces. And there were platoon leader Nguyen The Thao of the Chien Thang Infantry Unit, platoon leader Pham Van Do of the Dong Ha Unit, and many other officers who led their men into action with great imagination and courage.

The recipients of the title are known not only for their great determination. They also excel in organisation and command, in the use of modern weapons and war means, in fighting methods and high combat performance. The superiority of man over weapons and the fact that well organized men can stand up to anything have been eloquently proved by the Dong Xoai Regiment, the Rung Sat Unit, the 8th Artillery Unit, the 12th A-A Battalion and by such combatants as Bui Dinh Dot, Le Van Trung, Do Viet Cuong, Nguyen Chat Xe, etc.

The Dong Nai Regiment a main force unit for Eastern Nam Bo — the 2nd Battalion on the Tat Thang Unit in the Tri-Thien sector, the 9th, or Khe Sanh, Battalion, and the 2th Armour Company in the High Plateaux, have been rewarded for their solidarity, sense of co-operation, strict discipline, utter dedication to the common interests, fearlessness of difficulties and good public relations.

The engineering, signal, logistic, transport and hospital units honnoured this time fully showed great devotion in supplying the front and the rear during that strategic offensive.

It is a great pride for South Viet Nam that the revolutionary heroism of its army and people again proved its invincibility in such a glowing manner. By awarding the best units and individuals of the liberation armed forces, the people want to further develop this revolutionary heroism so as to achieve new successes and bring their revolutionary struggle to complete victory.

All the armed forces and the entire people of South Viet Nam are making it a point to learn from the units and individuals honoured in order to impel forward the current struggle for a US-Saigon scrupulous implementation of the Agreement and the Joint Communiqué of Paris, for the building of a South Viet Nam in peace, independence, democracy and national concord, and for the eventual reunification of the country.

A PLAF representative commending heroes and hero-units

PLAF HERO

NGUYEN THE THAO

*

OUR heavy guns lobbed shells on P.T. Height 1 with a thundering noise. Commander Nguyen The Thao looked anxiously at his men who were getting ready for action and then at the luminous hands of his wrist-watch.

9.05 p.m, two more minutes to go. Thao turned towards political instructor Phien, gazed at him and pointed to his watch as if to remind him that the "go" signal would be given soon. Then two red star shells were sent up into the sky. As nimble as a goat, Thao sprang up, shouting: "Forward!"

All Unit 9 followed him. Our ordnance pieces concentrated their fire on the main target. Like a hurricane, Thao and his men rushed on the enemy base. Our guns kept roaring. Enemy troops continued to dig in in their trenches. Taking advantage of this, Thao and his unit invested Height 1.

"Flag-Carrying team, follow me!" Thao shouted and waved his men forward while heading for the enemy CP. Hardly had the adverse troops sprung to their feet in their trench when Thanh reached the top of the enclave and waved the "Resolute to fight and to win" flag. The Saigon soldiers shrieked wildly and tried to halt our men's advance with their hand-grenades. But too late! All our storming party was closing in upon them. Thao personally took command of the storm-troops who were striving to plug the entrances to the C.P. trench. The explosion of our satchel charges and the crackling of Thao's tommy gun heard from the enemy central post fired our pincer units forward impetuously. Like an oil slick, Thao's party overran the adverse C.P. and spreal all over the enclave. Thao darted onto the spot where the flag was fluttering; in the glare of the fire, he saw distinctly Hung, a member of the flag-carrying team which had overpowered the fifth trench.

"Hung is doing a good job. Search out the fellows hiding in the corners!"

No sooner had he said than a shell exploded, hurling him onto the edge of the hill. He lost consciousness for a while and then sprang up and dashed in the direction of the right flank. Calling up political instructor Phien, he cheerfully asked: "Has our right pincer got it?"

"Only an underground trench is left; the enemy is rallying his force for a last ditch effort."

Thao then felt like a hunter after his game. Though hurt by the blast, he ran at full speed towards the right spearhead.

He saw a flash of lightning 10 yards from the enemy dugout and thought it must be a very devastating resistance pocket. Should it not be silenced, it would be impossible for him to wipe out the underground trench behind. When he was making a survey of the terrain, he saw another flash of lightning from the same direction.

(Continued on page 7)

Truth about THE LE MINH CASE

CHU NGHE, or Le Minh, as Saigon calls it, is an area controlled by the PRG west of Pleiku. It was there that the Saigon administration, with US connivance, committed a series of crimes in September this year. Under support of aircraft, which dropped tens of thousands of bombs, and artillery, which fired tens of thousands of rounds, some 30 armour-spearheaded infantry battalions launched a succession of operations on the liberated areas of Ngo Thanh, Trung Nghia, Dac Rocot, Chu Rep, Chu Thoi, Plei M'rong and Ngoc Bay in the neighbouring province of Kontum. In Darlac province just close by, Saigon troops also conducted savage raids on the people living in areas south of Ban Me Thuot and in Buon Ho and Kleng. Then, from Pleiku, Saigon troops pushed west to attack Chu Nghe.

The Saigon administration, however, was heavily penalized for these military adventures. The liberation forces in the High Plateaux, determined to defend the liberated zone and out of respect for the Paris Agreement and the Paris Joint Communiqué, intercepted the intruders everywhere, dealing them well-deserved blows.

For several days now, the Nixon administration and the Thieu clique have raised quite a din about a "communist attack" on Le Minh base. In this campaign to fool the public in Saigon and abroad, beef up the Saigon army and prepare for new land-grabbing attacks against the liberated zone of South Viet Nam, Washington and Saigon are charging the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government with making preparations for the rekindling of hostilities in South Viet Nam. More brazen still, the Saigon administration has convoked successive press conferences and issued one communiqué or statement after another, and even tried to cause trouble at the Two-Party JMC and the bipartite consultative conference. The US, meanwhile, has alleged an attack by North Vietnamese armour against Le Minh, which allegation has been followed by noisy charges by Saigon of a "serious violation of the Paris Agreement" and even by unveiled threats of "adequate retaliatory measures." A demonstration has also been staged at Tan Son Nhut airport, which, in fact, is just a move to intimidate the PRG Military Delegation headquartered there. Meanwhile, a Saigon spokesman has intimated that the US would made in if military actions were maintained at this level.

These insolent, provocative statements have been synchronized with Saigon military activity in many parts of South Viet Nam. In the highlands, Saigon forces have been operating openly, in utter disregard for the cease-fire. In Chu Nghe (Le Minh), Saigon air force and artillery have been attacking the population. On September 27 and 28, 400 "Green Berets" were helilifted there to reinforce the units operating in liberated areas of Gia Lai, Kontum and Darlac.

It is very clear that the US and Saigon are bent on prolonging the tension in South Viet Nam. Their design is to obliterate through continued military actions the liberated zone of South Viet Nam and deny the existence of two administrations, two armies, two zones of control, and three main political forces.

The RSVN PRG, steadfastly abiding by the Paris Agreement and the Paris Joint Communiqué, will not tolerate the US-Saigon violations. The liberation forces have inflicted due punishment on Saigon intruders.

The population and the armed forces in the High Plateaux, deeply attached to peace and national concord and reconciliation, insist that the United States and the Saigon administration strictly respect and implement the Paris Agreement and Joint Communiqué by fully observing the cease-fire and putting an immediate end to all inroads into the liberated zone. If they remain obdurate and continue taking advantage of the goodwill of the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam and persist in their design, the armed forces and people of the High Plateaux will be forced into punitive actions and Saigon will have to bear whatever consequences may result from its reckless acts.

Scanning the Saigon press

Economic and social calamities in Saigon-controlled areas

A series of plans have recently been announced by the Saigon administration allegedly to improve the people's living standards: for post-war economic development, for security in countryside and cities, fourth "For the people" campaign... But the true picture has been partly revealed by the Saigon press (despite strict censorship).

Tia Sang April 14: "The post-war development of South Viet Nam's economy shows a downward trend in inverse ratio to the improvement of peace prospects. The reason is that it is only a product of war. The very words "South Viet Nam's economy" (i.e. the economy of the Saigon-held areas) are improper, since in South Viet Nam there is no economy at all — there exists only a kind of transactions between some foreign countries and some Vietnamese. In the context of such economic straits, everything will collapse on the day foreign aid is withdrawn."

Dai Dan Toc, July 26: "The present economy of South Viet Nam is not productive; foreign aid is inadequate, the governments' (i.e. the Saigon administration's) tax rise only entails a price hike and the necessity of pay increases for civil servants and militarymen. But a wage rise will only result in a new price hike and so on and so forth. Such is the vicious circle of an "unclean" and "chaotic" economy and finance. The people have undergone too many trials, they cannot keep on wandering on a misty sea with no port to call at."

Machinery and raw materials are not imported or cannot be purchased since taxes are too heavy: this has forced such industries as pottery, paper, dying, plastics, pharmaceutics, foodstuffs, into a partial stoppage and other activities like weaving and cattle breeding into a decline. "These activities are not likely to be saved in the present economic circumstances which are far from being optimistic," *Dien Tin* wrote on August 24.

The economic doldrums and closure of factories have given rise to serious unemployment. Another reason for this is the high-handedness of employers and Thieu's orders to lay off workers to draft them into his army. "Unemployment has certainly come to stay," *Dai Dan Toc* said, August 7. "It is the product of a flawed system of production and distribution. There are now two million unemployed, including 50,000 in concentration camps, 88,000 war invalids, 200,000 young men of working age and 100,000 former workers in US firms."

Even in such a predicament, the people cannot live in peace. Thievery and robberies are rife. The Saigon administration not only does nothing about them, it also tolerates its agents to encourage them. The army and the police should act as protectors of the people but they instead use their guns to rob the people of their property. *Dien Tin* on August 21, basing itself on "National police" sources, wrote: "The military police frequently use their own arms to intimidate the population and grab their motorbikes and watches in the streets. They wear military uniforms and badges."

The Thieu administration does nothing either about epidemics. It took only an epidemic of dengue to kill thousands of people. Spreading from Hue to Da Nang, Pleiku, Vung Tau, Vinh Long, it caused the death of innumerable children, but the administration took no effective measure against it. "Is it true that in this country (i.e. the Saigon-controlled areas)," *Dien Tin*, on July 5, denounced "medical facilities are too inadequate to save children from a death that can certainly be prevented? It is ironical that the medical service spends a lot of money on posters, leaflets, pamphlets and on teach-ins on birth control at a time when the war has exhausted all manpower and when the several months old epidemic of dengue has elicited only this piece of advice in newspapers: "Protect yourself against mosquito bites."

Dien Tin printed on Aug. 11 a cartoon representing three big letters *TVA* in wood, and a saw cutting off only a small upper part of the letters, leaving the rest almost intact. The meaning was that the TVA (tax on added value) was supposed to be cancelled for a number of services, but the Saigon administration kept on collecting it. The institution of this tax has triggered a skyrocketting of prices, especially of rice, which has gone up since early 1973 by 67 percent. The shortage of this commodity has been caused by widespread hoarding and Saigon has been in the throes of a "rice fever". This has not only been attended to by Thieu, who even takes advantage of it to grab more of the people's rice for his own stocks and for Lon Nol. *Dai Dan Toc* on August 26 carried an article by MP Kieu Mong Thu which said: In face of this difficult economic situation, many firms and factories have had to close down, the textile industry goes bankrupt, handicraft find themselves in a slump. The army of jobless people grows to the region of several hundred thousands, the people's purchasing power is going down. How could commerce thrive while the people's pockets are empty and traders are running dry of capital. *TVA* has been cut at its summit but it still stands and its roots have struck deep into every facet of life. It has thrown a lot of people onto street pavements. This state of things can be improved only by a clear-cut change in national orientation — by taking the road of peace."

Dai Dan Toc gave on August 19 this picture of the South Vietnamese society in the Saigon-controlled areas: "Society today offers two contradicting faces: on the one side a group of affluent people thriving on speculations and illicit transactions, on the other side the bulk of the population living in destitution owing only two empty hands and an exhausted body that can hardly find any job at a time when shops and factories are closing down one after another. They have not enough to eat, their work is too hard, their houses are without any sanitary facilities, and their minds are at all times busy with problems of livelihood. That is the reason why their health is declining."

Song Than admitted on July 30 that "poverty and ruin can be seen everywhere, except for a handful of people (Thieu and his henchmen) who still have plenty of opportunities to make shady deals. Social injustices grow with every passing day and there is perhaps no way to stop them growing."

Dealing with the root causes of this situation, *Dai Dan Toc*, pointed out on July 22: "All this gloomy picture is the outcome of the US aggression. It forced our fellow-countrymen who formerly lived on extensive and rich lands into crowded cities and into homelessness."

Dien Tin added on August 20 and 26: "War is also at the bottom of the rice fever since Thieu has to give 260,000 tons of rice to his army of 1,100,000 able-bodied men, and another 340,000 tons to the inmates of concentration camps, who instead of producing have become a class of consumers, since from 500,000 to 600,000 hectares of land are left fallow?"

And *Song Than* rightly concluded on July 30: "True, the (Saigon administration's) continuation of the war has brought the economy to a standstill, and inflicted on the society a host of calamities..."

The DRVN in brief

Tan Trao Tea

Tan Trao tea has an exquisite fragrance and delicious taste. The Tan Trao State farm has nearly 500 hectares grown with it. The average yield is from 115 to 245 tons per hectare annually. On some hills, it may reach from 26 to 30 tons per hectare. Each year, the farm produces almost 500 tons of cured tea buds for home consumption and export.

1,400 handicraft units

Hai Hung province can boast more than 1,400 handicraft units in its agricultural co-operatives, which account for an increase in the income of tens of thousands of co-op members. Their annual earnings run to a dozen million *dong*. Their products are for home consumption and export. The manufacture of such new items as embroideries, fabrics, carpets... is being actively stepped up.

The Tay Nung dialect used in cultural activities

For the last 10 years, the common (Vietnamese) language and the Tay Nung dialect have been concurrently taught in kindergartens and primary schools to tens of thousands of children of the Tay Nung ethnical minority. This has prepared them to more advanced learning and contributed to the eradication of illiterary among hundreds of thousands of Tay Nung people.

A new batch of 308 hydraulics engineers

A recent graduation ceremony at the Hydraulics college has conferred the engineer's degree on 198 students (of the 10th batch) trained on a regular basis, 85 students (of the 6th batch) trained under a crash program and 43 students (of the 2nd batch) trained on a rotation block release basis.

Of the 306 newly-graduated engineers, 73 are specialized in hydrology, 43 in agricultural hydraulics, 58 in project execution, 95 in project-designing and 37 in hydroelectric equipment.

The Ba Vi bull farm

The building of this farm started in May 1973 is now completed in the main. It has been put into commission. It comprises 4 big stables with 100 bulls and a chemical laboratory specializing in producing and storing bull's seed in pills. 100,000 pills have been so far produced and part of them has been successfully put on use in the ex-breeding farms of Moc Chau, Sao Do, Ba Vi.

The Centre has hundreds of hectares grown with *pangola* grass.

7,500 KUA transformer

The Hanoi transformer factory, after a period of study, has succeeded in producing 7,500 KUA middle-size transformers. This is the biggest transformer produced to date in North Viet Nam. Such transformers had to be imported from foreign countries.

With a 7,500 KUA capacity and weighing more than 20 tons, it is so built that it can operate even under water. It has been put to use in Hanoi, and the loss in power is not bigger than on a 5,600 KUA transformer.

Liberation Film Industry

Liberation of LOC NINH

A still from the film **Liberation of Loc Ninh**

"LIBERATION of Loc Ninh" — a two-reel black-and-white film of the South Viet Nam Liberation Army Film Studio — is currently on the billboard.

The beginning: a swift-flowing river, the famous Highway 13, the vast rubber plantations with dark, majestic trees, and wild flowers all symbolic of the great vitality of this region of Nam Bo in the long but victorious years of confrontation with the US aggressors.

Youthful, high-mettled liberation fighters — sons of the land — are marching on the plains down below, where their home villages are still groaning under the enemy's iron heel. Weather-browned, combat-seasoned faces of field commanders thoughtfully bent over a relief map: engineer units, tireless and daring, racing against time to span bridges for tanks and heavy artillery: convoys of transport bicycles, laden with supplies, crossing frail bamboo suspension bridges precariously spanning foaming rapids; endless streams of motorized troops, anti-aircraft batteries and heavy guns rolling to the front.

And the long-expected tanks, roaring proudly on their treads with red-blue-gold pennons fluttering on top of their turrets, rumble across the smoke-filled battlefield to Loc Ninh. Spectators can see, for the first time in the history of the sacred war for the liberation of South Viet Nam, Liberation Armour going into action, completely overpowering US-Saigon forces.

The camera then sweeps past fear-ridden, anguish-filled faces of American advisors sitting dejectedly on their haunches among a group of war prisoners.

Long lines of lorries and armoured vehicles of the Saigon army lie smouldering on Highway 13, "the road of blood and tears;" the capture of Lt. Colonel Duong together with his squadron, and of Colonel Vinh — commander of the Loc Ninh Military Sector — together with his staff digging in in steel-and-concrete bunkers.

Then come the scenes of obliterated artillery sites, motor pools, helicopter pads, and the sector airfield and military complex, all strewn with American weapons and war means.

And the triumphal march into Loc Ninh amidst cheering crowds marks the beginning of a new era in a region barely 100km northeast of Saigon.

To the camera crew, the film has been an unforgettable experience: their exciting days at the front side by side with the fighting men, were shadowed by the loss of one of the members, young Dong Cam.

TRAN VINH SA

★ ★ ★

Here and There

THE DEVIL TAKE THE HINDMOST

US C.B.S. has announced that Under-Secretary Harry Peterson of the Justice Department had notified Vice-President Agnew's counsel that enough evidence had been collected for legal action to be stated against the latter.

Meanwhile rumour continues to be abroad that the Veep is about to resign, which exasperates the Nixon-Agnew enmity into a real squabble between the Nixonians trying to oust Agnew, and the latter's supporters charging their adversaries with spreading the rumour to divert public attention from Watergate, and the very name of the US President being mentioned.

As a matter of fact, Mr Nixon has been deeper and deeper bogged down in the bugging scandal and has had to face Judge Sirica's summons to hand over the infamous tapes.

The brawl has prompted a secret caucus by 60 Democratic legislators to discuss steps to go to law against Nixon and proposals to institute a House Committee to look into the finding of the Senate's Watergate Commission.

As for Agnew, while having his press secretary Thompson put out a denial of his resignation, he is busy raising money for his defence costs, in case he has to face trial for kickbacks received when he was Governor of Maryland.

There is every indication that things will go from bad to worse between the numbers 1 and 2 of the regime who only some time back were as thick as thieves.

DE PROFUNDIS

Once upon a time there was a jet named F.111, the most expensive and latest thing in US tactical aviation and the Pentagon's beast: an all-weather and all-time gadget equipped with the most sophisticated electronic devices, an absolutely accurate and virtually invulnerable bomber because of its capacity of sudden changes in speed climbing or diving alike...

Late 1968, out of the first 24 pieces, not yet named F.111, 6 were deployed by Johnson in Viet Nam and 3 of them were immediately shot down. Nixon, infuriated, sent out a batch of 48 to sustain more losses and finally the Pentagon had to own that 35 had been grounded and to scrap the engines. It had, *AP* revealed, ordered 1,720 units but on receiving the 425th, it just cancelled the contract.

In a recent news conference in Washington, David Sponeibager and William Wilson, respectively captain and flight lieutenant of the F.111 brought down on the night of December 23, 1972 at Hoa Binh confirmed that their craft had been hit by small arms firing from the ground.

So the Pentagon has definitively discarded them from its fleet of tactical planes and the F.111 denomination has been replaced by the nickname "Silent Death."

De Profundis!

DECORATIONS

AFP reported on September 17, 1973 that Le Nguyen Khang, Deputy Chief of General Staff and Than Van Minh, Commander of the Thieu Air Force had made a secret trip to Nakhon Phanom in Thailand to decorate Vigt, the general commanding the 7th Group of USAF and some other US pilots.

For what distinguished services? For their zeal and efficiency in their bombing of Viet Cong targets. And what targets: villages, population centres, dykes, schools, churches, pagodas, hospitals etc. Yes, hospitals which came under the "military objectives" category, as some of the "heroes" had disclosed.

Such destruction and death visited on tens of thousands of his own people did not stir up the slightest qualm on Thieu's conscience. But why all that secrecy about the awarding of the honours to his "benefactors" instead of the usual pageantry?

It remains to be seen whether the "recipients" of the honours, who were actually the bosses, feel flattered to receive such rewards from their flunkeys.

HUONG NAM

NGUYEN THE THAO

(Continued from page 5)

He wanted to snatch a B.41 from the hands of young rookie Hoang Dang Mien who seemed to read his thought and said: "Leave them to me, commander! I give you my word I will get them."

Thao signalled to Mien to follow him to a slope 15 metres from the enemy gun emplacement. They saw other flashes coming out of the earth. Mien hurled 2 B.41s into the guns which were belching out flames, silencing them immediately. The enemy in the dug-outs screamed and surrendered. Thao and the members of the right pincer occupied Height 1 strewn with corpses and ammunition. The tents were seared by fire.

Unit 9 had accomplished its task well. Thao was dead tired. He felt sharp pain all over his body. He lay limp near a gun nest on the hill slope and looked in the direction of the enclave. A red flag was flying proudly amidst bright flames as if to wave them forward to other victories. He stood up, adjusted his dress, ready to go and meet Phien just when the latter turned up.

"Has our commander any fresh instructions for us?" Thao asked.

"The political commissar has sent a message congratulating us on our exploit."

Thao joyfully asked Phien to sit down and mapped out with him a plan to withdraw. Suddenly gun reports were heard from Heights 2, 3 and 4. Thao surmised that the friendly units had not finished their job, and he thought of assisting them. Phien was of the same mind and rang up the regimental CP for approval while Thao assembled his men. Their plan was eventually given the green light. Unit 9 sprang into action against Height 2 at once, and scored another win. Thao and his men rushed through an opening and stormed an enemy position on the left flank while a friendly unit was making a deep thrust into the adverse formation and fanning out in all directions. A new tactics took shape: the friendly unit struck the enemy in the inner perimeter whereas Unit 9 under Thao's command attacked him in the outer one. Like their mates on Height 1, the garrison defending Height 2 was knocked out in no time.

Nguyen The Thao's feats soon became the talk of officers and men of Chien Thang regiment. He had taken part in four campaigns and commanded his unit in 16 battles which all ended victoriously. In the onset against Height 1505, his men put out of action a whole company of Saigon troops, took many prisoners and seized a big haul of war materials. In the battle on Hill 1752 fought at short notice and without explosive charges Thao and his men passed through three barbed wire entanglements and mounted three withering assaults. In the battle in coordination with other arms at T.L., Thao and his men wrote off a whole company 160-strong, captured 4 soldiers and seized all the armament. He is also known as a CO who has a great affection for his men: in the battle on Hill T.C. there remained for all his unit only a few kilograms of rice and a bottle of water. Thao went without food and water for two days, for the benefit of his wounded mates. When more water was available and he was offered a drink, he refused it saying: "There is not enough water to go round. So I give my ration to the sick." His courage in combat and his love for his mates has greatly inspired all officers and men of Unit 9.

A gain of the world national liberation movement

THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA (BISSAU) PROCLAIMED

A significant advance has recently been made by the national liberation movement of Western Africa with the proclamation of the Republic of Guinea (Bissau).

Towards the end of 1972, said a PAIGC communiqué, the people of the liberated areas of Guinea and Cape Verde enthusiastically took part in the election of the National Assembly which met on September 29, 1972 in a locality of Eastern Guinea. During this occasion, the Republic of Guinea (Bissau) was proclaimed, a Constitution was adopted and a 13—member State Council headed by Louis Cabral, deputy Secretary General of PAIGC and a government with 7 ministers under Francesco Mendes were formed.

As is known to everybody, for the last five centuries, Guinea and Cape Verde have been a Portuguese colony. The people there started their resistance movement in the very first days of foreign occupation. Ten years ago, their drive entered a decisive stage and since then has won bigger and bigger successes. Under the leadership of PAIGC—now led by Aristid Pereyra—the people of Guinea and Cape Verde, fearless of terror, napalm, toxic chemicals, wholesale destruction of villages and crops, mass murders, and of all tricks aimed at splitting and sapping the national liberation movement, have been stubbornly fighting the Portuguese assisted by the United States, West Germany and a number of NATO countries. At the beginning of this year, Amilcar Cabral, Secretary General and founder of PAIGC, an outstanding liberation fighter, was killed by the enemy.

Nevertheless, all schemes of the aggressors proved fruitless and their horrors only led to an expected result: a more unbending will to fight on the part of the people of Guinea and Cape Verde. The latter's position is now more solid than ever before. The patriotic armed forces, fostered and protected by the people, have become an army with a high morale, a deep sense of discipline and capable not only of defending the liberated zone which covers two thirds of the national territory from North to South, but also of mounting series of offensives on the Portuguese colonialists and driving them onto the defensive.

"A new life is being shaped in the liberated areas, where emerge new people conscious of their rights and duties in their national land" (Aristid Pereyra, at the Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Nations, September 5 to 9, 1973).

The birth of the Republic of Guinea (Bissau) responds to a real need. It is a faithful reflection of the tremendous gains of the people of Guinea and Cape Verde in the course of their selfless and gruelling effort. It marks and important step forward in their liberation process.

It is undoubtedly a historic victory of the people of Guinea and Cape Verde, of the solidariry and mutual help of the African peoples, and of the world's national liberation movement as well. It will provide a source of inspiration to the people and fighters of Guinea and Cape Verde and stimulate them to dash forward with even firmer sense of purpose. It is also a strong incentive for the movement against Portuguese colonialism and against racial discrimination, for independence and freedom, in Mozambique, Angola, Rhodesia, South Africa,... and for the world's anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist and anti-neo-colonialist struggle.

The South Vietnamese people have been following closely and supporting the battle of the people of Guinea and Cape Verde with a deep sympathy inhererent in those stand on the same side of the anti imperialist and anti-colonialist trench. Gratified by this new achievement of our West African brothers, we wish the people of the Republic of Guinea (Bissau) full success in their endeavour to sweep away all the Porguese colonialists from their national territory, so as to "secure total liberation, set up a unified State of Guinea (Bissau) and Cape Verde island, and advance towards the establishment of a strong and progressive African nation" (Proclamation of the Republic of Guinea (Bissau)).

DINH BA

WORLD'S SUPPORT FOR VIET NAM

— On Sept. 25, numerous representatives of all walks of life and mass organizations in Havana met at the Mella Theater to celebrate the 10th founding anniversary of the Cuban Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos.

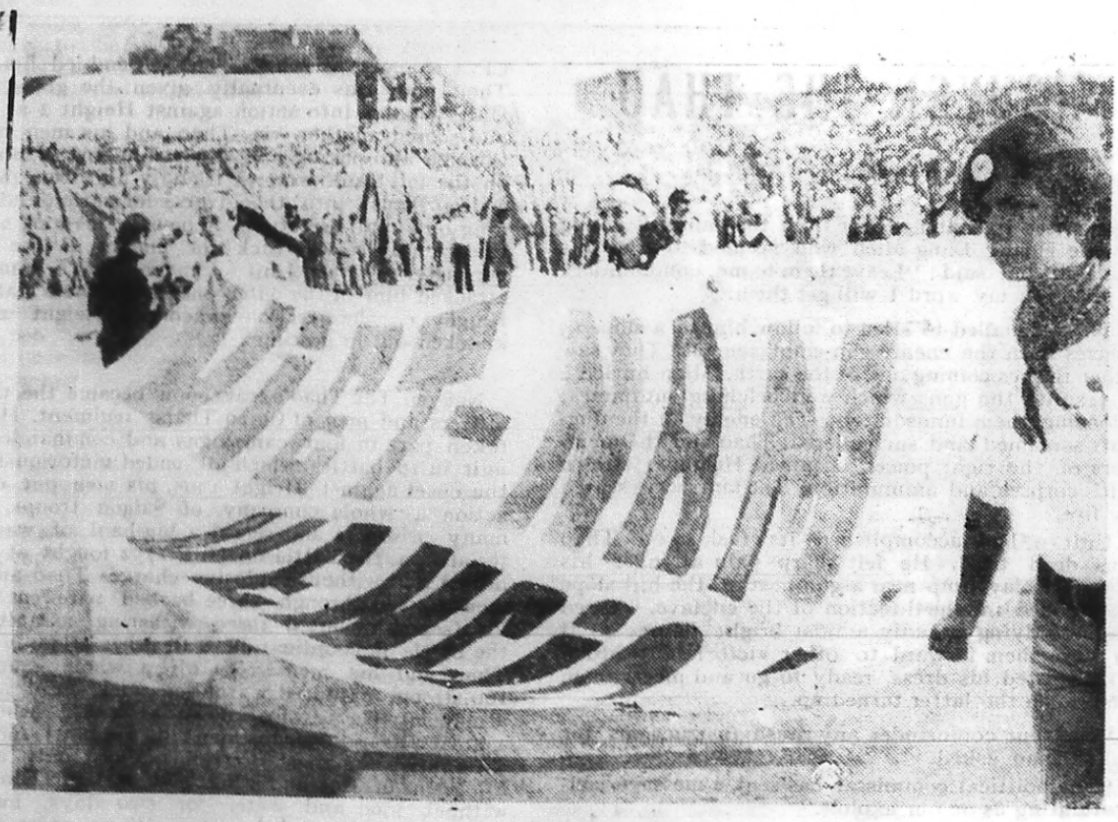
On this occasion, *Granma*, central organ of the Communist Party of Cuba, editorially welcomed the Committee's achievements in the past decade, and called on the Cuban people to strengthen their solidarity with, and increase their material and moral support to, the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples.

— In his speech delivered at the 28th UN General Assembly, A. Gromyko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR, said: "All sides' strict implementation of the Paris Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam, respect for the agreements reached in Laos, and letting the Cambodian people solve their internal affairs according to their aspirations, without outside interference, is the key to a settlement of the Viet Nam problem."

— The London-based Medical Aid for Viet Nam Committee is stepping up its variegated fund-raising activities to get medicines and medical appliances for Viet Nam. In the first 7 months of this year, the Committee raised 62,561 pounds.

The Jersey Medical Aid Committee has set itself a target of 1,000 pounds for the purchase of a complete mobile hospital unit for the PRG—controlled areas of South Viet Nam.

The Kent Committee has collected many medical appliances and spare parts for Viet Nam.



At Berlin X World Youth Festival: the Italian delegation carrying the banderol "Victorious Viet Nam"

Since its formation in 1965, the above-said Committee has collected a sum of 300,000 pounds from various sources, at home and abroad.

— In its message to the South Viet Nam Liberation Youth and Student Union, the Free German Youth League has strongly condemned the Saigon administration's violations of the Paris Agreement and the June 13 Joint Communiqué and reaffirmed its vigorous support to the present effort of the South Vietnamese.

— On September 18, the Convention of the Peace Council of the Finnish Federation of Trade Unions unanimously adopted a resolution appealing to "all trade unions to increase support for the Vietnamese, and urge the US and the Saigon administration to implement strictly the Paris Agreement, set free all political prisoners and ensure the basic democratic freedoms of the South Vietnamese people."

— The Congress of the Swedish Metal Workers' Trade Union has decided to send 100,000 kroners to the Swedish Committee of Solidarity with Viet Nam for the Vietnamese.

— The 10th General Assembly of the World Federation of Scientific Workers held in Varna (Bulgaria) from September 5 to 7, warmly welcomed the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples in their resistance to US aggression. In its resolution, the Assembly reaffirmed its moral and material support to the just struggle of the Indochinese peoples for the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and the Vientiane Agreement on Laos by the US and the Saigon and Vientiane administrations.

— "At least 200,000 political prisoners have been subjected to a horrible treatment in Saigon prisons," Italian priest Tullio Vinai, just back from South Viet Nam, told a press conference in Geneva on September 25. He affirmed that "10,000 corpses have just been found in various grottoes in the Tay Ninh area"... The clergyman strongly denounced the crimes committed by the Thieu regime against those kept in "cow sheds" and "tiger cages." "From 7 to 14 prisoners are packed into a cell six square metres large," he added.

— In his political report to the Fifth Conference of the Afro-Asian Writers held in Alma Ata (Soviet Union), the General Secretary of the Association pointed out: "The period we are going through has witnessed the victory of the Vietnamese people, a historic and decisive one over the strongest and most brutal imperialist force. With unusual heroism, deep consciousness, experienced political organisation and untold sacrifices, they have set a high standard in the history of the struggle against imperialist aggressors. This will remain engraved for ever on the hearts of the peoples of various countries."

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION